Claims

1.-23. (Canceled).

24. (Currently Amended) A method of ~~treating~~ suppressing an immune response in an inflammatory arthropathy in a subject comprising administering to a subject having an inflammatory arthropathy a therapeutically effective amount of a substantially pure or isolated oligodeoxynucleotide of[[8]] up to100 nucleotides in length[[,]] comprising the nucleotide sequence set forth as SEQ ID NO: 2~~wherein (a) the oligodeoxynucleotide forms a G-tetrad; (b) the oligodeoxynucleotide has a CD value of greater than about 2.9; and (c) wherein the oligodeoxynucleotide comprises two to twenty TTAGGG motifs~~ thereby ~~treating~~ suppressing the immune response in the inflammatory arthropathy in the subject.

25. (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein the oligodeoxynucleotide is administered topically, parenterally, orally, intravenously, intra-muscularly, sub-cutaneously, or intra-articularly.

26-33 (Canceled).

34. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 24, wherein the oligodeoxynucleotide ~~comprises~~ consists of the nucleotide sequence set forth as SEQ ID NO: 2.

35. - 36. (Canceled).

37. (Currently Amended) The oligodeoxynucleotide of claim 24, wherein the oligodeoxynucleotide further comprises a CpG motif, and ~~wherein~~ comprises at least one TTAGGG motif[[is]] 5' to the CpG motif.

38. (Currently Amended) The oligodeoxynucleotide of claim 24, wherein the oligodeoxynucleotide further comprises a CpG motif, ~~wherein the~~ comprises a TTAGGG motif[[is]] 3' to the CpG motif, and wherein the TTAGGG motif is separated from the CpG motif by at least ten nucleotides.

39. (Canceled).

40. (Original) The method of claim 24, further comprising administering an additional anti-inflammatory, immunosuppressive, or anti-arthritis agent.

41. (Original) The method of claim 40, wherein the agent is a biological response modifier, a disease-modifying antirheumatic drug, a steroid, a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug, or a Cyclo-Oxygenase-2 inhibitor.

42. (Original): The method of claim 40, wherein the agent is anakinra, etanercept, infliximab, leflunomide, prednisone, cortisone, celecoxib, choline magnesium trisalicylate, diclofenac, diclofenac potassium, diclofenac XR, diflunisal, etodolac, etodolac ER, fenoprofen, flurbiprofen oral, ibuprofen, indomethacin, indomethacin SR, indomethacin suppositories, ketoprofen, ketoprofen ER, meclofenamate, meloxicam, nabumetone, naproxen, naproxen CR, naproxen ER, oxaprozin, piroxicam, rofecoxib, salsalate, sulindac, or tolmetin sodium, hyaluronan, or hylan G-F20.

43. (Currently Amended) A method of ~~treating~~ suppressing an immune response in an inflammatory arthropathy in a subject comprising contacting immune cells with a therapeutically effective amount of a substantially pure or isolated oligodeoxynucleotide comprising the nucleotide sequence set forth as SEQ ID NO: 2 ~~of 8 to 100 nucleotides in length, wherein (a) the oligodeoxynucleotide forms a G-tetrad; (b) the oligodeoxynucleotide has a CD value of greater~~

~~than about 2.9, and (c) wherein the oligodeoxynucleotide comprises two to twenty TTAGGG motifs,~~ and transferring the immune cells to a subject having inflammatory arthropathy, thereby ~~treating~~ suppressing the immune response in the inflammatory arthropathy in the subject.

44.-50. (Canceled).

51. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the oligodeoxynucleotide is modified to prevent degradation.

52. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 51, wherein the oligodeoxynucleotide comprises a phosphate backbone modification.

53. (New) The method of claim 43, wherein the oligodeoxynucleotide consists of the nucleotide sequence set forth as SEQ ID NO: 2.